

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 OES-03 COME-00 AID-05 IOE-00 (ISO) W

----- 077736

P R 241805Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5229

INFO COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL JEC PARIS

USUN 0428

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0321

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IC, SZ, VS, VN

SUBJECT: ICELAND PLANS IN FUTURE TO SUPPORT PRG OBSERVER STATUS

AT UN CONFERENCES

REF: REYKJAVIK 0293

1. MFS DEPSEC GEN HELGASON ASKED POLOFF TO CALL ON HIM TODAY IN ORDER TO INFORM US THAT GOI HAD ABANDONED INTENTION OF VOTING AGAINST PRG OBSERVER STATUS AT 7TH WMO CONGRESS UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE FROM SEDES AND FINNS AND INSTEAD HAD NOT (RPT NOT) VOTED, AND TO ADVISE US OF GOI PLANS FOR HANDLING FUTURE ATTEMPTS TO ACCREDIT PRG AT UN-SPONSORED CONFERENCES. HELGASON SAID GOI WILL HENCEFORTH VOTE IN FAVOR OF PRG OBSERVER STATUS, BUT WILL OPPOSE ANY EFFORT TO OUST SAIGON FROM SUCH GATHERINGS OR OTHERWISE TO UNDERMINE
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SAIGON'S CREDENTIALS AS LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF

SOUTH VIETNAM.

2. HELGASON CITED HEAVY PRESSURE FROM OTHER NORDICS WHICH GOI HAS BEEN UNDER TO ASSUME MORE EVEN-HANDED POSITION ON PRG ISSUE, AND SAID POLICY OUTLINED ABOVE WILL BRING ICELAND MORE INTO LINE WITH OTHERS. DENMARK AND NORWAY, ACCORDING TO HELGASON, ARE ADAPTING SAME STAND.

3. COMMENT: NOW GOI APPROACH TO PRG QUESTION BEARS PERSONAL STAMP OF FONMIN AGUSTSSON, WHO HAS BEEN UNDER RECURRING AND INCREASING PRESSURE ON ISSUE AS NOTED. ON ONE HAND, APPROACH REPRESENTS OBVIOUS BOW ON REPRESENTATION ISSUE PER SE TO THOSE NORDICS SYMPATHETIC TO PRG, BUT IT CARRIES WITH IT WHAT AGUSTSSON APPARENTLY SEES AS BALANCING REAFFIRMATION OF GOI RECOGNITION OF SAIGON AS SOLE GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE NATION AND PEOPLE. IN EXPLAINING POSITION TO US, HELGASON MADE POINT OF STRESSING LATTER POINT, AS HE HAS DONE ON OTHER RECENT OCCASIONS. WHATEVER ARE INCONSISTENCIES OF NEW GOI FORMULA, IT CAN THUS BE DEFENDED AS A "MODERATE" NORDIC APPROACH. MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT IS PRESUMABLY SEEN BY AGUSTSSON AS MEANS OF KEEPING HEAT OFF HIM, AT LEAST FOR A WHILE.
IRVING

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Message Attributes

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